

## Message Text

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ACTION PM-03

INFO OCT-01 NEA-09 ISO-00 L-02 SP-02 OMB-01 CIAE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 /025 W

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P R 081415Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY MANAMA BAHRAIN

TO SECSTATE WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY 0538

INFO AMEMBASSY JIDDA SAUDI ARABIA

SECDEF WASHINGTON DC

DOT/USCG WASHINGTON DC

DA WASHINGTON DC

USMTM DHAHRAN SAUDI ARABIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANAMA 0538

E.O. 11652 : GDS

TAGS : MASS, BA

SUBJECT : HELICOPTER TRAINING FOR BAHRAIN DEFENSE

FORCE OFFICERS

REF : (A) STATE 090084

(B) MANAMA 0433

1. AMBASSADOR HAS DISCUSSED TWICE WITH CROWN PRINCE/DEFENSE MINISTER QUESTION OF APPROPRIATE HELICOPTER TRAINING FOR LT. SHAIKH HAMED BIN EBRAHIM AL-KHALIFA. WE HAVE MADE POINT OF IMPORTANCE WE ASSUME GOB ATTACHES TO IMPROVED SEARCH AND RESCUE CAPABILITIES AND OUR RECOMMENDATION THAT BAHRAINI OFFICERS RECEIVING HELICOPTER TRAINING HAVE THIS COURSE. AMBASSADOR HAS FURTHERMORE QUESTIONED TO CROWN PRINCE SUITABILITY OF GUNNERY TRAINING FOR BAHRAINI OFFICERS, ON GROUNDS OF NEED AND IN LIGHT OF U.S.-GULF ARMS POLICY, EXPLAINING IT UNLIKELY USG WOULD AGREE TO SELL HELICOPTER MOUNTED MINI GUNS AND ROCKETS TO BAHRAIN DEFENSE FORCE (BDF) SHOULD IT SO REQUEST.

2. CROWN PRINCE/DEFENSE MINISTER'S RESPONSE WAS:

A. THERE IS NO QUESTION OF PRIORITY GOB SHOULD BE

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ATTACHING TO IMPROVING ITS COASTAL SURVEILLANCE CAPABILITY, BUT

THIS IS POLICE FUNCTION NOT WITHIN RESPONSIBILITY OF DEFENSE  
MINISTRY AND BDF. HENCE, HIS OFFICERS ARE NOT APPROPRIATE  
CANDIDATES FOR SEARCH AND RESCUE TRAINING; AND  
B. WHILE BDF HOPES TO ACQUIRE HELICOPTERS IN FUTURE,  
IT HAS NO CURRENT PLANS TO DEVELOP AN ASSAULT TROOP GUNNERY  
SUPPORT CAPABILITY. REASON BDF WANTS LT. SHAIKH HAMED, AND  
A COLLEAGUE WHOSE TRAINING HAS BEEN FORMALLY REQUESTED, TO  
RECEIVE GUNNERY COURSE IS TO GIVE THEM BROADEST POSSIBLE  
PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND IN MILITARY HELICOPTER OPERATIONS  
TO PERMIT THEM TO DEVELOP AS SENIOR HELICOPTER PILOTS OF BDF.  
CROWN PRINCE NOTED TO AMBASSADOR HIS CONVICTION THAT THESE TWO  
OFFICERS WOULD NOT BE "PLAUSIBLE" MILITARY HELICOPTER PILOTS  
WITHOUT SUCH TRAINING. HENCE, TO AN EXTENT, THIS TRAINING IS  
DESIRED FOR INTANGIBLE REASONS RATHER THAN FOR PRACTICAL  
APPLICATION. AMBASSADOR HAS SUBSEQUENTLY REVIEWED ABOVE WITH  
FOREIGN MINISTER, WHO IS GENERALLY COOL TOWARD BDF REQUESTS  
BUT SUPPORTS THIS ONE.

3. RECOMMENDATION: AS INTERESTED WASHINGTON PARTIES AWARE,  
BDF SOMETIMES HAS UNREALISTIC EQUIPMENT AND TRAINING GOALS  
BUT GOB HAS KEPT A VERY TIGHT GRIP TO DATE ON THEIR ACQUISITIONS  
AND ACTIVITIES. REQUEST FOR GUNNERY COURSE IS A FORMAL REQUEST  
THROUGH DIPLOMATIC CHANNELS AND HENCE HAS FORMAL GOB APPROVAL.  
IN VIEW OF THIS FACT, AND IN LIGHT OF CROWN PRINCE'S COMMENTS  
NOTED ABOVE, WE STRONGLY RECOMMEND PROVIDING GUNNERY TRAINING  
AS PART OF OVERALL HELICOPTER COURSE FOR LT. SHAIKH HAMED BIN  
EBRAHIM AL-KHALIFA AND HIS COLLEAGUE.

4. WE HAVE NOW RECEIVED FORMAL REQUEST FOR THE SECOND  
OFFICER TO RECEIVE TRAINING ALONG WITH LT. SHAIKH HAMED.  
DETAILS SEPTTEL.  
TWINAM

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PERSONNEL TRAINING, MILITARY ASSISTANCE, HELICOPTERS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 08 MAY 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** CunninFX  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1975MANAMA00538  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D750162-0189  
**From:** MANAMA  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Line Count:** 93  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION PM  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 75 STATE 090084  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** CunninFX  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 01 AUG 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <01 AUG 2003 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <21 NOV 2003 by CunninFX>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
05 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** : HELICOPTER TRAINING FOR BAHRAIN DEFENSE FORCE OFFICERS  
**TAGS:** MASS, BA  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006